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Conservation and Adaptation in Asia's High Mountain Landscapes and Communities: Semi-annual Report

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World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th St. NW, Washington D.C. 20037

Acronyms

AKRSP	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
ASER	Altai-Sayan Ecoregion
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CDO	Conservation and Development Organization
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CHARIS	Contribution to High Asia Runoff from Ice and Snow
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COFSUN	Community Forestry Supporters Network
CoP	Conference of the Parties
DoHMS	Department of Hydro-meteorological Services
ECOSS	Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim
FECOFUN	Federations of Community Forest Users' Nepal
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
GPU	Grampanjayat Unit
GSP	Global Support Program
GTI	Global Tiger Initiative
ICDP	Integrated Conservation Development Programs
ICSD	Central Asian Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development
JDNP	Jigme Dorji National Park
KCA	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area
KCAMC	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council
LRP	Local Resource Person
LTDC	Lachen Tourism Development Committee
MAP	Medicinal Aromatic Plant
MEGD	Ministry of Environment and Green Development
NABU	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union
NCAN	National Center for Animal Nutrition
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSIDC	National Snow and Ice Data Center
NSLEP	National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Plan
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
SLCC	Snow Leopard Conservation Committee
SLN	Snow Leopard Network
SLT	Snow Leopard Trust
SMRS	Species Management and Research Section
UCPA	Underlying Cause of Poverty Analysis
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCC	Village Conservation Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
WCC	Women's Conservation Committee
WCP	Wangchuck Centennial Park
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

I. Overview of Progress in Implementation of Project Activities

The high mountains of central Asia, including the Altai, Tian Shan, Kunlun, Pamir, Hindu Kush, Karakorum and Himalayan ranges, are integral to major river systems and biodiversity across Asia. These mountain systems provide the fresh water for one-third of the world's population as well as the habitat and corridors for the snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) and other biodiversity. In the face of a changing climate, rapid glacial melt in alpine regions is altering river flows and seasonal availability of water, and is negatively affecting endemic species, local and downstream communities, and agricultural productivity. Poor water resources management, land degradation, fragmentation and loss of forests and grasslands, poaching, and overgrazing of livestock further exacerbate pressure on high mountain ecosystems while increasing human-wildlife conflict. Local communities have a major stake in reducing their vulnerability and adapting to this constellation of threats to Asia's mountain ecosystems.

This project is working to facilitate technical and policy dialogue on high mountain landscape management in the face of climate change. This will help prepare communities to address key vulnerabilities to climate change, conserve snow leopards as the flagship and indicator species of Asia's high mountain landscape health, and provide practical and measurable demonstrations that advance a vision for water security and sustainable mountain development across Asia. The principal objectives of this project include: 1) Promote climate-smart management of high mountain landscapes and snow leopard habitat for sustainable development, and 2) Improve transnational collaboration on climate change adaptation and snow leopard conservation in Asia's high mountain landscapes. Project activities will focus on 6 of the 12 known snow leopard range nations, including Bhutan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, and Pakistan. The montane forests in the Himalayan nations suffer from a variety of issues, including deforestation, unsustainable harvest of NTFPs and heightened forest fire danger. However all 6 nations suffer a similarly from overgrazing in alpine meadows, poaching and retaliatory killing of wildlife, and declining availability of water resources, climate change impacts, and poorly planned infrastructure as well as other more localized issues

Project Launch and Inception Workshop

The official launch of the Conservation and Adaptation in Asia's High Mountain Landscapes and Communities (here after referred to as "the Project") was held on December 1, 2012 at the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Workshop. This meeting was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and was sponsored by the Government of Kyrgyzstan, Snow Leopard Trust, Snow Leopard Network, World Bank Global Tiger Initiative, and Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU). The purpose of the meeting was to launch the Project and conduct the planning of the Global Snow Leopard Forum to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, tentatively in September 2013. The December meeting was the first of its kind to be attended by government officials, researchers, and NGOs from all 12 snow leopard range states. Carey Gordon, USAID Mission Director for Kyrgyzstan, formally announced the launch of the project. A WWF presentation on the importance of the snow leopard and high mountain ecosystems was given. There were 106 participants, of which 17 were women.

The inception workshop for the Project was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from December 4-7, 2012. This meeting brought together participating WWF staff and partners from the six project countries, namely Bhutan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, and Pakistan, as well as staff members from WWF US and members of the Snow Leopard Network steering

committee. Topics discussed at the workshop included an introductory overview of the project, individual project country presentations, techniques in snow leopard monitoring, and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies in snow leopard range areas. There were 35 participants, including 8 women.

Country Inception Workshops
WWF Mongolia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Green Development (MEGD), held a project inception workshop in February 2013 that was attended by protected area directors and representatives of provincial MEGD departments in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion (ASER). The inception workshop was held in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, and the objective was to make participants aware of expected project outcomes, working areas, proposed activities, and the implementation process, and also to reach agreement on future collaboration for conducting snow leopard distribution surveys. Fifteen participants attended the workshop, including two women.

In addition, WWF Pakistan held two project inception workshops, one each in the project regions of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Chitral District, in December 2012 and March 2013, respectively. At these meetings, the goals and objectives of the Project and its implementation plan were shared with key stakeholders from government, civil society organizations, and project communities. The inception meeting in GB was attended by GB's Conservator of Parks and Wildlife, Director of Agriculture, Deputy Director of Livestock, and the assistant Director of Fisheries. Also in attendance were the Deputy Commissioner and Divisional Forest Officer of GB's Hunza Nagar District, as well as the area manager for the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) and the head of the Karakorum Area Development Organisation. In Chitral District, a one-day inception workshop was held in March 2013, which was attended by representatives of the Snow Leopard Foundation, AKRSP, UNDP, project community representatives, and officials from the Chitral District Administration, Wildlife, Forest, Livestock, and Education Departments.

II. Status Updates: Areas of Progress and Successes; Implementation Issues and Challenges

Objective 1: Promote climate-smart management of high mountain landscapes and snow leopard habitat for sustainable development in specific sites

Sub-objective 1.1: Strengthen local natural resource institution's governance and capacity

India
In March 2013, WWF organized a preliminary meeting with the two male *Pipon*s (heads of local administrative councils known as dzumsa) and two male dzumsa members from Lachen Village. The participants of the meeting were informed about the Project and activities on climate change, as well as waste management and snow leopard conservation to be carried out in Lachen. Positive responses were received from both the *Pipon*s regarding the work, and commitment for cooperation was received from them. A draft plan of action was also discussed with them in preparation for a community meeting to promote and inform people about the need for waste segregation, and to move forward with snow leopard monitoring work during the appropriate seasons.

Nepal

WWF made an agreement with the Federation of Community Forest Users of Nepal (FECOFUN) to organize natural resource management training for Community Forest User Group (CFUG) members, with a particular focus on good governance, gender and social inclusion. This training will be conducted in the KCA by the end of May 2013.

WWF and CARE-Nepal made an agreement with KCAMC and FECOFUN to organize trainings for target groups to use gender and power analysis and Underlying Cause of Poverty Analysis (UCPA) tools to map power relationships in the control of community natural resources. This training will be conducted in the KCA by the end of May 2013.

WWF and CARE-Nepal made an agreement with the Community Forestry Supporters Network (COFSUN) to act as the local partner in organizing pro-poor planning training for local youth and Local Resource Persons (LRPs), and to mobilize them to prepare livelihood improvement plans of CFUGs. These activities will be conducted by the end of May 2013.

Pakistan

From November 2012 to March 2013, WWF conducted a series of meetings with natural resource management groups and local communities in Chitral District and Gilgit-Baltistan. The following paragraphs provide details of the outcomes of these meetings, which first involved assessments of traditional natural resource management groups, followed by social mobilization for project implementation.

<u>Assessments of Traditional Natural Resource Management Groups</u>

Rapid assessments of the local traditional groups and institutions governing natural resource management in the Rumboor and Laspur Valleys of Chitral and in the Hassanabad-Nullah Region of Gilgit-Baltistan were conducted through interviews and focus group discussions with community members and tribal elders. These rapid institutional assessments revealed that in the Rumboor and Laspur Valleys, both men's and women's conservation committees as well as traditional natural resource management groups exist. However, due to changing needs and priorities, as well as lack of support from government agencies, these committees and groups have become inactive. With respect to the Chitral District meetings, there were 74 participants (72 men and 2 women), and the key findings include:

- Village level traditional resource management committees are present in the project sites.
- These committees are responsible for regulating livestock grazing, fodder and fuel wood collection. In the past, Golkhasum (Gol means stream and Khasum means caretaker) used to be head of villages in Laspur who was responsible for watch and ward and protection of natural resources.
- A strong sense of ownership still prevails among the custodian communities for these institutions.
- In the past, during the state era, these indigenous systems of resource management were very effective but with the passage of time these institutions lost their validity.
- There is a pressing need to reactivate these institutions by re-organizing and capacity building of the local communities.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, although informal traditional resource management groups do exist, no formal organizations or committees have ever been established. Two meetings were held in January and February 2013 and involved 20 participants (all men) and 150 participants (all men), respectively. Key findings of the assessment include:

- The Project site (Hassanabad Nullah) has resource-use rights of four local tribes, namely Diramiting, Brong, Barataling and Khurokuz currently residing in four major settlements of central Hunza: Murtazaabad, Hassanabad, Aliabad and Karimabad.
- Hassanabad Nullah branches into two sub-nullas known as Shishper and Muchowar, the former belongs to Diramiting and the latter to Brong tribe with use-rights of Barataling and Khurokuz.
- Each tribe has a leader, locally known as Namberdar or Lumberdar, responsible for regulating resource-use in the nullahs such as grazing, firewood collection, farming, and mining. In the past, these tribal leaders had a major say in regulating hunting of wildlife but at present this is governed by Gilgit-Baltistan Forest, Wildlife and Environment Department.
- The tribe-based system is very influential in maintaining natural resources at the project site and hence their role is also expected to conserve the snow leopard and its habitat. Therefore, the projects social mobilization strategy will organize these tribes in the form of a network of community-based natural resource management groups.

The rapid assessments of the local traditional groups and institutions governing natural resource management resulted in the following outputs: indigenous natural resource management groups were identified; ownership for project activities was developed among the key stakeholders and their support for snow leopard conservation, habitats and watershed improvement was agreed upon; and indigenous local knowledge was documented.

Social Mobilization for Project Implementation

In Chitral District, formal meetings were held with the identified local natural resource management groups upon completion of the rapid assessments. These meetings had a total of 105 participants (53 men and 52 women), and were held in the Rumboor and Laspur Valleys. Three village conservation committees (VCC) and two women's conservation committees (WCC) are present in these valleys, and at these meetings the structure of these committees was documented and a strategy for their rejuvenation was discussed. During these meetings, details including project objectives, activities, expected outcomes, and stakeholder roles were discussed at length, and action plans to strengthen and involve local community conservation organizations were agreed upon.

In Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), WWF held a series of three meetings between November 2012 and February 2013 in order to achieve community support for the Project's snow leopard and habitat conservation activities. The first was held on November 13, 2012 in the town of Gilgit, and was attended by WWF Pakistan's Senior Conservation Manager and Project Coordinator, as well as two tribal elders from the project communities in GB. During the meeting, the WWF Project team learned about the local tribal system of natural resource management, and explained the features of the Project plan for GB. After hearing about the project, community elders suggested holding a larger follow-up meeting with more community representatives for further discussion about community participation in the Project. The follow-up meeting was held on January 11, 2013 in the town of Aliabad in the Hunza-Nagar District, GB, and was attended by the WWF Project team, comprising the WWF Conservation Manager and the WWF Project Coordinator, and twenty community members (all men) representing the four tribes in the Project area of GB. During the meeting, details of the Project including objectives, expected outcomes, implementation strategy, and stakeholder roles were discussed at length. The community members had numerous apprehensions regarding the Project, including fears about loss of community land use rights and a ban on livestock grazing. They expressed the view that locals have had natural resource

rights for generations and a conservation program might restrict these rights. The Project team explained WWF's strategy of working with communities to improve local natural resource practices through well-designed co-management systems. In addition, the role of the District Administration and the GB Forests and Wildlife Department were also discussed. The community representatives suggested that WWF should hold meetings with the four tribes and recommended establishing four tribal conservation committees and an umbrella organization with representatives from all four tribes. WWF requested the representatives to confirm the participation of each tribe via community resolutions. The third meeting was held on February 3, 2013, again in Aliabad, and was attended by 150 community members (all men) representing the four tribes of central Hunza-Nagar District that have land use rights at WWF Project sites in the Hassanabad-Nullah Region of GB. Following a heated debate on the potential advantages and disadvantages of participating in the planned WWF snow leopard and community conservation program, participating community members overwhelmingly agreed to submit resolutions confirming community participation in the Project to WWF by late February 2013. However, following the February deadline, WWF contacted the Nambardars (tribal elders) of all four tribes, and only three had prepared the requested Project participation resolutions while the fourth tribe still had reservations about participating in the Project. Since that time, the Project team has been in contact with the fourth tribe but has not been able to reach an agreement on the tribe's participation in the Project. To move forward with the Project, WWF has mapped out three options for how to proceed:

1. Continue to attempt to get the fourth tribe (Diramiting Tribe) on board
2. Work with the three other tribes, but not the Diramiting Tribe, and remove the Shishper Pasture area from Project activities
3. Move the GB project site from Hassanabad to another nearby valley

A final decision concerning how to proceed with this component of the Project will be made later this spring.

Sub-objective 1.2: Increase community resiliency to climate change impacts

Bhutan

As part of the joint Integrated Conservation Development Program (ICDP), in March 2013 WWF Bhutan and the staff of Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCP) completed a survey of climate change impact interventions currently being used by residents of WCP, as well as ICDP activity successes and failures since 2009. A total of 498 households in nine out of ten geogs (local administrative units) in WCP answered the questionnaire. The tenth geog, Lunana, was not surveyed since it was inaccessible due to snow. A report on survey findings will be produced and finalized by late August 2013, which will serve as the basis for developing trial climate adaptation strategies to be implemented in WCP.

Ten households each from the villages of Nubi, Gangzur, and Dhur in WCP were selected to take part in a pasture improvement program to be implemented during the spring and summer of 2013. The activity will be jointly implemented by WCP and the Department of Livestock's National Center for Animal Nutrition (NCAN). This activity will involve supplying participating households with grass and fodder seeds which they will plant under the supervision of NCAN to restore severely degraded pasture areas. After plowing and seeding the degraded pasture areas, NCAN will monitor the sites with local participants and plot a course of action for continued maintenance of improved pastures.

WWF is funding the installation of two hydro-meteorological monitoring stations in remote high altitude locations in WCP. One station is located in Gomthang, a three-day trek from the nearest road head in Nasiphel Village in WCP's Central Range, and one station is located in Tabgang, a one-day trek from Dungkar Village in WCP's Eastern Range. Arrangements for transporting the stations and fencing materials to surround the stations have been made, with this equipment to be transported to the installation site on horseback from the respective road terminuses. The expedition to install the stations set off in April 2013. Two experts from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Department of Hydro-meteorological Services (DoHMS), will install and fence off these stations, and also train the WCP staff in data retrieval and station maintenance.

India

WWF has initiated a survey to gather information on impacts of climate change and climate variability on local agricultural practices to gauge the opinions of local farmers on how these agricultural practices might best be adapted to a changing climate. Best practices being adopted by the farmers are also being documented, which will be useful for the development of awareness materials for sensitization. The survey is being conducted in six village clusters (or grampanjayat units - GPUs) with 6 villages each that span various elevation zones of the state, and will cover all four districts of Sikkim. Expertise and input of the state government's Agriculture and Horticulture Department are also being sought. The findings will be documented in the form of a report, which will be disseminated to various stakeholders. In the past it was seen that cardamom cultivation in the state was affected by fungal and viral diseases that brought down the large cardamom production by a large percentage. Whereas some sections of farmers have attributed the fungal and viral attacks to rising temperatures, it has not been proven scientifically. The survey report is expected to be completed by the end of May 2013.

Nepal

In February 2013, WWF organized a one-day training on sustainable grazing and pastureland management for herders in the village of Lelep in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA). A total of 19 herders (all men) participated in the training, which provided the opportunity to discuss pastureland management issues in the Ghunsa-Phale and Gyabla areas of KCA, and possible solutions to these issues that can also improve ecosystem resilience. Major problems identified during the training were a shortage of water, difficult access to pastures, and decreasing quality of grass. The recommended actions identified during the training to resolve these issues included constructing water storage facilities to address the water shortage, renovating a wooden bridge and trails to improve access to remote pastures, and promoting rotational grazing to improve pastureland quality.

In February and March 2013, WWF conducted an assessment of pastureland management in Ghunsa-Phale, Gyabla, and Yangma areas of KCA. During this assessment, local community members were surveyed about the status of pasturelands, in particular grazing areas currently in use, as well as about seasonal pasture use patterns and possible grazing competition between livestock and wild ungulates. Initial findings showed that a total of 21 and 22 pastures are currently in use in the Ghunsa-Phale and Gyabla areas, respectively.

Sub-objective 1.3: Enhance community engagement in conservation

India

In March 2013, WWF held a meeting with residents in Lachen, Sikkim to assess the level of wildlife conservation awareness in the local community. Local livestock herders were interviewed about loss of livestock to predation by snow leopards and other predators. Participants were provided training on simple wildlife monitoring techniques, including distribution of wildlife monitoring datasheets, which participants will use to record snow leopard sightings, prey species sightings, and livestock kills. These datasheets were collected and analyzed by WWF India staff members and a brief report on the survey will be completed in May. Fifteen community members (all men) participated in this meeting.

In Sikkim, WWF is currently undertaking a survey documenting the various community based eco-tourism initiatives and will analyze the successes and challenges of each model. This survey is being conducted in partnership with the Eco-tourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS), the leading NGO working on eco-tourism issues in Sikkim. The study will cover Sikkim's six main eco-tourism sites and look at the diverse community based tourism initiatives being promoted in the state, including initiatives being led by individuals, communities, and the state government. The report on this review and survey is expected to be completed in June 2013.

In addition, in January 2013 WWF launched an eco-tourism activity in Sikkim to address the problem of community solid waste disposal. This activity is being conducted in partnership with the Lachen Tourism Development Committee (LTDC), a 40-50 member youth group actively working to promote tourism in Lachen. A stakeholder consultation was held with LTDC in Lachen Village, North Sikkim, with the objective of discussing the way forward in implementing a system of solid waste management in and around high altitude wetlands near Lachen village. 54 people (including 18 women and 36 men) participated in this meeting.

In August 2012, WWF supported the implementation of a ban on water sold in plastic bottles in Lachen, a decision made based on an earlier study of plastic waste in the village. As a next stop in resolving the solid waste issue, WWF and the LTDC have agreed to convert a disused school building into a recycling center where non-biodegradable recyclables from the village will be segregated and sold to local scrap dealers. In May 2013, a trash separation training will occur with participation of a local recyclables dealer, and public response for the recycling center proposal will be gauged.

Mongolia

In Mongolia, WWF expanded the "Buy Goat Program" to the Jargalant Khairkhan Mountain site of the Project area. In this reporting period, a total of 21 cases of sheep lost to snow leopard attacks were confirmed by the local verification council, and 21 sheep were given in compensation to the affected herders. However, it is felt by WWF and partners that the "Buy Goat Program" should only be an interim measure until such time as a more sustainable livestock insurance scheme can be implemented in the project region. At present, WWF is undertaking a review of various livestock insurance schemes active both in Mongolia and abroad, and is seeking to determine which are appropriate for trial in the project area.

Nepal

WWF determined that one method for reducing loss of livestock to snow leopards in the KCA would be to predator-proof livestock corrals by placing roofs on these corrals and fitting them with stronger gates. In order to demonstrate predator-proof corral design, in October 2012 funding was provided for materials to build one such demonstration corral in

the Khambachen area of the KCA. With labor donated by local herders, one predator proof corral with a capacity of 50 sheep was constructed.

Sub-objective 1.4: Conserve snow leopards and their habitat in priority sites

Bhutan

In this reporting period, WWF expanded its snow leopard monitoring program from the central area of WCP to the western range of WCP along the park's boundary with Jigme Dorji National Park (JDNP). Under this activity, WWF and WCP staff jointly carried out a snow leopard prey species survey in the western section of WCP, the findings of which are currently being complied. In addition, a camera trap survey was set up in the same section of the park, which captured a variety of predators. These photos are currently being analyzed to determine the number of snow leopard individuals captured, as well as to model movements and occupancy patterns of other wildlife species in the park. In April and May 2013, the WCP Species Management and Research Section will collect wildlife scat as part of systematic DNA-based wildlife monitoring in WCP, with a particular focus on snow leopards. Scat collected will be sent to the National Center for Biological Sciences in Bengaluru, India for analysis in the summer of 2013.

Mongolia

In Mongolia, 12 camera traps were set up on Jargalant Khairkhan Mountain in Khovd Aimag from November to December 2012 for the purpose of monitoring snow leopards over a 30 day period. In addition to the experts who designed the survey, five local herders including one woman also participated as part of their training as "citizen scientists." A total of 7 photos of snow leopards with cubs were taken by 6 of the 12 camera traps. In addition, photos of Siberian ibex, wolverine, Pallas's cat (manul), sable and other species were taken. WWF Mongolia also delivered 40 camera traps to a local herders associations for the purpose of snow leopard population assessment by the herders. These camera traps will be put into use at the end of May 2013 to gather key information on snow leopard populations and their habitat use at the Jargalant Khairkhan Mountain project sites in the ASER.

Following the WWF Mongolia country project inception workshop held on February 8, 2013, the provincial MEGD departments from Mongolia's six ASER aimags (provinces) organized a workshop in their respective aimag to map current snow leopard distribution in western Mongolia. Methods developed by the WWF Mongolia project team were followed using 1:200,000 scale topographic maps as base maps. The results of these workshops are currently being entered into WWF's GIS database and will be compared to previous snow leopard distribution data from these six western aimags. Details of these 6 workshops include the following:

- Workshop 1: Bayan-Ulgii Aimag, February 26, 2013
  The Bayan-Ulgii Aimag MEGD department organized the workshop, which was attended by 104 environmental specialists, state rangers, protected area rangers, volunteer rangers, and soum (county) environmental inspectors. Ten of the participants were women.
- Workshop 2: Zavkhan Aimag, March 1, 2013
  The Administration of Otgontenger Strictly Protected Area, in cooperation with Zavkhan Aimag MEGD department, organized the workshop which was attended by

20 environmental specialists, state rangers, protected area rangers, volunteer rangers, and soum (county) environmental inspectors. Three of the participants were women.

- Workshop 3: Uvs Aimag, March 13, 2013
  The Uvs_Aimag MEGD department, in cooperation with NGO "Gulzat Sanaachlaga" (an NGO launched through a WWF initiative to focus on local prey species conservation), organized the workshop which was attended by 44 environmental specialists, state rangers, protected area rangers, volunteer rangers, soum land officers, and soum environmental inspectors. Six of the participants were women.
- Workshop 4: Gobi-Altai Aimag, March 21, 2013
  The Gobi-Altai Aimag MEGD department organized the workshop which was attended by 50 environmental specialists, state rangers, protected area rangers, volunteer rangers, and soum environmental inspectors. Twelve of the participants were women.
- Workshop 5: Khuvsgul Aimag, April 4, 2013
  The Khuvsgul Aimag MEGD department organized the workshop which was attended by 130 environmental specialists, state rangers, protected area rangers, volunteer rangers and soum environmental inspectors. Twenty-eight of the participants were women.
- Workshop 6: Khovd Aimag, April 12, 2013
  The Khovd Aimag MEGD department organized the workshop which was attended by 36 environmental specialists, state rangers, protected area rangers, volunteer rangers, and soum environmental inspectors. Four of the participants were women.

Nepal

WWF has prepared a draft monitoring protocol to be used to assess the distribution of snow leopards and their prey in the KCA. The protocol is currently being field tested to ensure that interested residents of the KCA will be able to implement it with minimal supervision. At the same time, WWF is also conducting a trial camera trap survey, surveying sign transect routes for snow leopard scat collection, and locating and marking vantage points for conducting fixed point blue sheep counts. This protocol will be finalized by September 2013, in time for the autumn field season.

Based on preliminary snow leopard sign and camera trap surveys, WWF has selected several sites in the Khambachen area of the KCA to begin snow leopard collaring work. WWF is also using camera trap photos and DNA analysis of scat collected in the preliminary survey to estimate the number of individual snow leopards in the survey region. The necessary collaring project proposal has been submitted to the Government of Nepal as part of the process to obtain official permission for performing snow leopard collaring work in the KCA.

On October 2-3, 2012, WWF worked with SLCCs to train 16 citizen scientists in monitoring snow leopards and their prey base. At this training, WWF trained 16 citizen scientists from the KCA region, including 12 SLCC members. One of the trainees was a woman. So far, 26 snow leopard sign transects totaling 13.4 km in length have been set up. Following the training, trainees led by WWF staff conducted a count of blue sheep, the main wild prey of the snow leopard, in the KCA in October 2012, which produced a total of 1,404 blue sheep in the survey area. In addition to species monitoring, in March 2013, all 4 participating SLCCs in the KCA were also mobilized to help control wildlife poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife parts and NTFPs/MAPs through a monitoring activity which the SLCCs led themselves.

WWF assisted CFUGs in the preparation of a Forest Operational Plan for the Deurali Conservation Community Forest in Yamphudin VDC in the KCA. These CFUGs were provided with support to conduct forest inventories, which served as the basis for developing the plan. With the Forest Operational Plan now ready, the conservation community forest is in the final process of being handed over from government to community management, after which the 1,356 hectare community forest will directly benefit 59 households in Yamphudin.

Objective 2: Improve transnational collaboration on climate change adaptation and snow leopard conservation in Asia's high mountain landscapes.

Sub-objective 2.1: Building cooperation through the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas and its regional "Framework of Cooperation" for protection of Asia's high mountain landscapes and snow leopard conservation

A follow up meeting of the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas is tentatively planned for July 2013. At present, it appears that organization of the meeting will be spearheaded by the Government of India, rather than the Royal Government of Bhutan. The WWF Living Himalayas Global Initiative staff, who have played a great part in driving the Climate Summit process, have tentatively agreed to organize a side meeting concerning climate impacts on snow leopard range areas in Bhutan, India and Nepal to help foster future cooperation on these issues in the Eastern Himalayas region.

Sub-objective 2.2: Facilitate discussions on climate change and snow leopard conservation among the range countries

In March 2013, The WWF US climate adaptation team completed a competitive search for a short term consultant to conduct a range wide review of climate change vulnerability, and the impact of climate change on glacier melt rates, the availability of water resources, ecosystems, snow leopard habitat, and downstream communities. The consultant will also analyze the effects of regional black carbon emissions on glacial melt rates and review current policy initiatives to manage the impacts of glacial melt. The deliverables and timeline have already been agreed upon and the contracting process is underway. WWF will work with the selected consultant to finalize a methodological approach and work plan, and begin collaborating to gather relevant information, including meeting with other WWF staff currently analyzing regional water supply and grassland degradation. Other collaboration under this activity will also include WWF country staff working at the respective project sites and other core project partners in the region. A meeting with the CHARIS group at the University of Colorado, Boulder is also planned to discuss potential coordination and initial steps for moving forward with the review to ensure no redundant analyses are performed, given similar work conducted by the NSIDC's CHARIS program since 2009. It is anticipated that work will begin on this activity in May and run through August, with a final report completed by the end of August.

The annual meeting of the Central Asian Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) will be held in June 2013 in Dunshanbe, Tajikistan. The Central Asia programs director from WWF Russia, who is responsible for Project activities in Kyrgyzstan, will be attending and will give an overview of the Project as well as updates, and will discuss possibilities for cooperation on conservation of the snow leopard and its habitat.

Sub-objective 2.3: Update range-wide information on snow leopard trafficking and provide trafficking information to enforcement efforts at the national and regional network levels

TRAFFIC is currently updating its 2003 report "Fading Footprints: The Killing and Trade of Snow Leopards." This update has involved an in-depth compilation of data and reports collected from published sources, researchers, and conservation organizations working in snow leopard range areas. A final report is expected to be ready in time for presentation at the GTI-sponsored Global Snow Leopard Forum to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in September 2013.

On March 8, 2013, WWF organized a five-party planning meeting on the illegal trade in snow leopards on the sidelines of the CITES CoP 16 meeting in Bangkok. The meeting was attended by representatives from TRAFFIC, INTERPOL, Snow Leopard Trust, USAID, and WWF. A tentative agreement was reached for TRAFFIC to prepare a training module on the trade in snow leopards and snow leopard parts for presentation at an INTERPOL-led Project Predator training on combating the illegal trade in wild predators such as tigers and Asiatic leopards. This snow leopard module is planned to be presented at a relevant Project Predator wildlife trade training for Asian law enforcement officials in Project Year 2, to build upon any momentum generated concerning snow leopards following the September 2012 Global Snow Leopard Forum in Bishkek.

Sub-objective 2.4: Building momentum through a range-wide network for snow leopard conservation

A range-wide snow leopard vulnerability and grassland degradation analysis using GIS and remote sensing was launched on December 6, 2012 at the combined Project inception workshop and SLN technical meeting in Bishkek. This analysis was introduced at a session on mapping climate change vulnerability and grassland degradation in the snow leopard range areas. At this session, participants shared their knowledge and concerns about the impacts (both observed and anticipated) of climate change on snow leopards and their habitat. The group was less concerned about direct impacts to snow leopards from increased temperature or from treeline shift, but most concerned about increased livestock grazing and cropland conversion in areas currently utilized by snow leopards. It was agreed that there was a need to improve documentation and mapping of grassland degradation in snow leopard habitat. In order to take stock of the inter-linkages of climate vulnerability, grassland degradation, and supply of water in snow leopard range areas, a short term consultant was hired in March 2013 to work in cooperation with staff from the WWF US Conservation Science Department. Work is currently underway, and includes a literature review and hydrological and vulnerability mapping of snow leopard range areas. Outputs of this activity will include the following:

- A comprehensive GIS database is created with data sets on regional climate and precipitation data, land cover data, elevation data, and snow leopard and prey species distribution data.
- Draft maps illustrating such themes as current and potential snow leopard habitat, regional livestock grazing pressure and grassland degradation, surface water resources critical for both high mountain and downstream communities, existing and proposed protected areas, and snow leopard migration corridors.

- A plan based on this GIS database for monitoring snow leopard presence/absence, grassland quality and species diversity, water quality, livestock grazing intensity, prey distribution, and climate change impacts in several priority sites in the project area.

In addition, a technical meeting of the Snow Leopard Network was convened concurrently with the Project inception workshop discussed at the beginning of this report. Topics discussed included climate change and grassland degradation, as well as camera trapping and radio collaring techniques, DNA analysis, and incorporating climate adaptation concepts into national snow leopard conservation action plans. Attendees included members of the current Snow Leopard Network steering committee, WWF staff members from the six Project countries, as well as other interested local and international conservation workers.

Sub-objective 2.5: Launch the beginnings of the Alliance on Asia's High Mountain Landscapes

During this reporting period, the Project continued to support preparations for the September Global Snow Leopard Forum to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Several project partners (WWF, SLT, TRAFFIC, INTERPOL, and USAID) attended a GTI sponsored side meeting attended by representatives of the 12 snow leopard range nations. The goal of the meeting was to move forward on finalizing National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Plans (NSLEPs) for each of the 12 range nations, and to begin the process of developing a Global Support Program (GSP) to be put in place following the summit. WWF made a presentation at the meeting titled "Valuation of Snow Leopard Ecosystems" while SLT staff presented on predation of livestock by feral dogs and the increase in survival rates of livestock through vaccination programs.

Implementation Issues and Challenges

Bhutan
In Bhutan, challenges have arisen due to lack of sufficient park staff and technical expertise within WCP. WWF has to depend upon external expertise in carrying out project activities, particularly with respect to advanced snow leopard monitoring. Another challenge is simply the large size of the park and the fact that it was only established in 2008. Consequently, park institutions such as ranger stations and patrol routes are not well established, making it difficult to for park staff to regularly interact with the park's more remote communities. WWF will continue to pursue creative ways to traverse WCP and maintain contact with remote communities in the park.

Kyrgyzstan
Project activities in Kyrgyzstan are being funded through WWF Russia's Central Asia Program based in Moscow since WWF does not have a field office in Kyrgyzstan. Consequently the flow of funds for Kyrgyzstan activities requires an additional transfer transaction.

Pakistan
In Pakistan, challenges include the poor law and order situation in Gilgit-Baltistan that severely restricted the movement of WWF staff in the region from January-March 2013. WWF staff travel was also restricted by the difficult terrain, which increases the time needed

to implement Project activities in general. WWF will continue to maximize the use of time and resources throughout the Project, taking all necessary precautions to balance the security of staff and local communities while also pursuing timely completion of project goals and objectives. A second challenge lies in organizing all four tribes to work in concert on community-based conservation at the project site in GB. One of the four tribes with land rights in the project area is dominated by herders and hunters, who still have apprehensions about the conservation program. WWF will continue to reach out and communicate this tribe to provide the necessary information about the implications of Project activities for the community and regional conservation efforts.

WWF US
Challenges faced for the stock taking activities for the vulnerability assessments include the lack of an accurate range-wide snow leopard habitat map. WWF will work with partners in Year 2 to create a more detailed and comprehensive map. A second challenge is the low availability of highly localized habitat and climate data for individual project sites. The Project continues to search for and extract this data from articles and reports through an ongoing literature review, and an evaluation of available regional data sets.

III. Measures and Adaptive Management

Bhutan
In order address the issue of lack of technical capacity in WCP, WWF is arranging for outside experts to lead snow leopard monitoring work in WCP, particularly with respect to camera trapping and DNA analysis of snow leopard scat. Both WWF and WCP project implementing staff are aware that conservation efforts require the goodwill and support of communities in WCP, and therefore are using the Project as a platform for the park management and communities to work together.

Mongolia
Project activities will be closely aligned with a new WWF project titled "Empowering local stakeholders to conserve and sustainably manage the globally important ecosystems and species in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion (ASER) of Mongolia." The primary goal of this other project is to increase local stakeholder participation in conservation of the snow leopard and its prey species by creating awareness of the benefits of protecting globally endangered species and implementing methods for resolving human-snow leopard conflict in high conflict areas. Another measure being adopted by WWF is outreach to new members of provincial parliaments that were elected at the end of 2012 to discuss environmental issues with these lawmakers, in particular to explain climate-smart grazing practices that will contribute to maintaining healthy pasture for both livestock and wild ungulates preyed on by snow leopards.

Pakistan
In order to address the apprehensions of the fourth tribe at the GB project site that is hesitant to participate in the WWF project activities, the Project team has made individual and collective contacts with some village elders, community activists, and government conservation workers about this matter. As a result, tribe members, especially hunters, are being educated about benefits of the conservation program, while government conservation workers are also engaged in talks with the tribe to solicit their support for Project activities.

IV. Progress Against Workplan

SN	Activities	Unit	Target	FY13				Status
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1	**Objective 1: Promote climate-smart management of high mountain landscapes and snow leopard habitat for sustainable development in specific sites**							
1.1	***Sub-objective 1.1: Strengthen local natural resource institution's governance and capacity***							
Nepal 1.1.1	Train members of local natural resource management groups on principles of good governance, gender and social inclusion, and support adoption of these principles in the groups' by-laws	No	50					Started, on track
Bhutan 1.1.2a	Work in collaboration with the Forest Resource Management Division of the Department of Forest and Park Services and community members to develop a local forest management plan for the 162 households resident in the Kurtoe Geog Sub-district of Lhungdsi District	No	20					On track
Bhutan 1.1.2b	Work in collaboration with the Forest Resource Management Division of the Department of Forest and Park Services and community members to develop a second local forest management plan for the Gangzur Geog Sub-district	No	20					
Kyrgyzstan 1.1.2c	Organize trainings to build the capacity of selected local community associations, NGOs, and other interested community members with respect to self-governance and sustainable management of local natural resources in the project region in eastern Issyk Kol Province							
Kyrgyzstan 1.1.3	Provide technical support for local associations and NGOs to conduct awareness raising activities regarding sustainable natural resource management and use							On track
Mongolia 1.1.4	Build governance capacity of local community herder groups to develop sustainable pasture and watershed management plans as well as strategies to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, such as the relocation of winter livestock sheds to low-risk areas							On track
Pakistan 1.1.5	Raise awareness and provide education about the role of predators, particularly snow leopards, in maintaining the ecological health of mountain pastures							On track
Nepal 1.1.7	Use "Gender and Power Analysis" and "Underlying Causes of Poverty Analysis" tools to map power relations in control of natural resources, and identify target groups and appropriate strategies	No	50					Started, on track
Nepal 1.1.8	Conduct pro-poor planning training for local youth to be local resource persons and mobilize them in the preparation	No	15					Started, on track

SN	Activities	Unit	Target	FY13				Status
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	of livelihood improvement plans							
Nepal 1.1.9	Conduct leadership skills training in traditionally excluded communities to provide skills necessary for positions in user groups, conservation committees, and the conservation area council	No	50					On track
India 1.1.10a	Work with dzumsas of two villages, Lachen and Lachung Villages, to build the capacity of these villages to sustainably manage their local natural resource base							Started, on track
Pakistan 1.1.10b	Work with both traditional tribe-based groups and valley-level conservation organizations established through earlier conservation initiatives in the project areas to further strengthen the capacity of these groups to manage their local natural resource base							Started, on track
1.2	***Sub-objective 1.2: Increase community resiliency to climate change impacts***							
Bhutan 1.2.1a	Conduct an assessment of climate change adaption interventions undertaken by local communities to date in WCP, and develop adaptation strategies for WCP in consultation with these communities							Started, on track
Nepal 1.2.1b	Develop trial site-specific climate adaptation strategies in KCA that provide benefits for livelihoods and high mountain ecosystems, snow leopards, and their prey species	No of HH	50					On track
Nepal 1.2.2	Work with local institutions (e.g. agricultural extension offices, local resource user groups, and herder groups) to promote best land management practices and enhance crop productivity and climate resilience through rainwater harvesting, small-scale water storage, and drought and pest-tolerant crops	No of farmers	30					Started, on track
Bhutan 1.2.3a	Work with the Department of Livestock, the management of WCP, and local communities in the Nubi, Gangzur and Tang geogs of WCP to identify grazing areas that have a need for pasture improvement projects that also have a high potential for success	Ha of pasture	12					Started, on track
Kyrgyzstan 1.2.3b	Conduct workshops at several selected project sites to promote the expanded use of yaks as a climate-smart alternative to domestic sheep and goats							On track
Mongolia 1.2.3c	Select one herding community in the project area that suffers severe conflict with snow leopards to implement a trial pasture improvement program							On track
Nepal	Work with the local mountain herding communities in the	Ha of	2,000					Started, on track

SN	Activities	Unit	Target	FY13				Status
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1.2.3d	KCA to promote sustainable grazing practices and pastureland improvement initiatives to maintain healthy pasture ecosystems in communities suffering from chronic pasture degradation	pasture						
Pakistan 1.2.3e	Raise awareness about climate change and its impacts amongst mountain communities, engage relevant stakeholder groups in implementing site-specific climate adaptation strategies, and build capacity of and collaboration amongst communities to implement these strategies	Sites Herders	2 40					On track
India 1.2.4	Organize local campaigns and workshops to raise awareness on climate change and adaptation actions on agriculture, especially among indigenous, marginalized, and poor populations	Sites	2					Started, on track
Bhutan 1.2.5a	Support the procurement of fencing materials to put around the hydro-meteorological stations in WCP, transporting the stations to their respective field locations, labor, and the travel expenses of the installation technicians	Sites	2					Started, on track
Pakistan 1.2.5b	Partner with the University of Colorado to develop a joint research plan on climate change impacts in northern Pakistan; establish priority topics for climate change research in the nation; and establish subsidiary partnerships with local institutions, researchers, and survey teams involved in climate change research in Pakistan							On track
1.3	***Sub-objective 1.3: Enhance community engagement in conservation***							
Bhutan 1.3.1a	Provide support to send seven local field staff members from Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCP) in Bhutan on a study tour of the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) in Nepal	No	7					Delayed
India 1.3.1b	Organize environmental education activities for community stakeholders, such as himal rakshaks, dzumsas, and government personnel posted in high altitude areas, concerning climate change impacts on and adaptation strategies for high altitude wetlands as well as on local biodiversity conservation issues, in particular with respect to the snow leopard and its prey species							Started, on track
Mongolia 1.3.1c	Increase community participation in snow leopard conservation activities by educating herders about methods for reducing human-snow leopard conflict and promoting the active participation of local herders in site-based monitoring of snow leopards and snow leopard prey	No	20					On track

SN	Activities	Unit	Target	FY13				Status
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Nepal 1.3.1d	Support local community organizations in KCA, in particular herder groups, SLCCs, and the KCAMC, to better protect snow leopards and their prey species through a community-led public education campaign on snow leopard behavior, snow leopard conflict prevention methods, and community monitoring of local snow leopard and prey species populations	No of SLCCs	4					On track
Pakistan 1.3.1e	Organize community-led fund raising campaigns to support local community snow leopard conservation efforts, in doing so ceding complete ownership of these activities to local communities and establishing strong bonds between community organizations and various donors							On track
Nepal/India 1.3.2a	Conduct two social surveys of livestock owners to assess the economic impact of predation on livestock by snow leopards and other wild predators such as wolves and bears in KCA and Sikkim	Sites	2					Started, on track
Pakistan 1.3.2b	Conduct a social survey of livestock owners to assess the economic impact of predation on livestock by snow leopards and other wild predators, such as wolves and bears, at project sites in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral District	Sites	3					On track
Mongolia 1.3.3	Expand the "Buy Goat Program" livestock insurance scheme in proposed field sites, building on lessons and best practices							Completed
Nepal 1.3.6	Support government agencies and communities to develop guidelines for sustainable management and harvesting of NTFPs/MAPs							On track
Nepal 1.3.7	Establish community-based processing facilities and support enterprise development, market linkages, value-added approaches, and market information systems							On track
Pakistan 1.3.8	Promote alternate livelihood activities (e.g. handicrafts, kitchen gardening, and horticulture) that are climate-smart and contribute to conservation of snow leopard habitat and wetlands							On track
Kyrgyzstan 1.3.9	Develop and support community-based eco-friendly income generation training and alternatives (e.g. felt production, facilitating market linkages,production of yak/horse milk and cheese, eco-tourism)							On track
Bhutan 1.3.11a	Support continued development of sustainable ecotourism practices in WCP by scaling up existing community based tourism endeavors							Delayed

SN	Activities	Unit	Target	FY13				Status
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
India 1.3.11b	Review all known previous community based ecotourism (CBT) efforts in Sikkim and prepare a report on the successes and failures of these projects as well as lessons learned							Started, on track
Nepal 1.3.11c	Support local communities and stakeholders in promoting sustainable community based tourism (CBT) in the Kangchenjunga Region, such as by conducting a Kangchenjunga ecotourism campaign targeting trekking companies and tour operators in Kathmandu and abroad	No	10					On track
1.4	***Sub-objective 1.4: Conserve snow leopard and its habitat in priority sites***							
Bhutan 1.4.1a	Perform camera trapping survey in the western section of WCP along the border with Jigme Dorji National Park using the monitoring protocol developed in the earlier survey							Started, on track
India 1.4.1b	Conduct a camera trap survey under accepted guidelines to determine snow leopard and prey species occupancy and populations at two key sites in the project region of northern Sikkim							On track
Mongolia 1.4.1c	Develop a simple snow leopard monitoring protocol suitable for use by interested residents of the Jargalant and Bumbat project sites in western Mongolia's Altai Region							Started, on track
Nepal 1.4.1d	Develop a simplified protocol for monitoring snow leopard and prey species, particularly blue sheep, populations in the Kangchenjunga Region to be used by SLCC members and citizen scientists							Started, on track
Pakistan 1.4.1e	Develop a suitable simplified snow leopard monitoring protocol for use in the project area through consultative workshop with stakeholders							On track
Pakistan 1.4.2	Conduct a snow leopard population survey in Gilgit-Baltisan and develop GIS-based species distribution maps for snow leopard and prey species, and prepare species conservation plan in consultation with partners and with approval of district government							On track
Mongolia 1.4.3	Conduct snow leopard distribution survey across the Altai-Sayan Region of Mongolia using SLIMS and participation of local stakeholders							Started, on track
Kyrgyzstan 1.4.4	Perform snow leopard population survey by collecting and performing genetic analysis, and potentially using camera traps in sites where snow leopards are present							On track
Nepal	Begin radio-tracking of snow leopards using GPS collars to	No	1					Started, on track,

SN	Activities	Unit	Target	FY13				Status
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1.4.5	collect information on home range size, habitat type and preferences, hunting behavior and frequency, and activity patterns							will continue into FY14
Bhutan 1.4.6a	Provide incentives for yak herders with low education levels residing in Wangchuck Centennial Park to act as citizen rangers	No	10					On track
India 1.4.6b	Community members in the Kangchenjunga Region will be trained in techniques for monitoring snow leopard populations, snow leopard prey species, and snow leopard habitat, notably SLIMS methodology for conducting snow leopard sign surveys							On track
Mongolia 1.4.6c	Train interested local herders and other community members in systematic methods for monitoring local snow leopards and prey species populations, including in SLIMS snow leopard sign survey methodologies and fixed point prey survey counts							On track
Nepal 1.4.6d	Build capacity to monitor snow leopards and their prey species in local communities in the KCA, particularly through existing and newly formed community SLCCs	No	10					Started, on track
Pakistan 1.4.6e	Train citizen scientists to conduct monitoring of snow leopards and prey species in the project region							On track
Pakistan 1.4.8	Establish a watch and ward system of Village Wildlife Guards to protect snow leopards and other species against hunting and poaching in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral							On track
Kyrgyzstan 1.4.9	Support patrolling by providing anti-poaching teams with field supplies and gear, and conduct trainings to improve capacity of private game management entities							On track
Kyrgyzstan 1.4.10	Involve local communities in species conservation activities through conservation education, training, and practical experience in snare removal and fire prevention							On track
Kyrgyzstan 1.4.12	Support habitat management practices (eg. establishing feeding fields and ensuring mosaic structure of habitat in agricultural landscapes)							On track
India 1.4.13a	Provide critical support to the State Forest Department of Sikkim for habitat protection, in particular for protection of high altitude snow leopard and prey species habitat							On track
Mongolia 1.4.13b	Provide support to grassland management agencies to improve management of pastures in remote areas known to be critical habitat for snow leopards							Started, on track

SN	Activities	Unit	Target	FY13				Status
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Nepal 1.4.13c	Support government agencies such as the Nepal Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), the Department of Forests (DoF), and their district level units as well as community groups such as the KCAMC to protect and improve snow leopard habitat in the Kangchenjunga region							On track
Pakistan 1.4.13d	Provide trainings for forest and wildlife departments on the habitat needs of local snow leopard populations and their prey species and on how to conduct rapid habitat assessment surveys to assess threats to snow leopard habitat from grazing, economic and development activities, and from climate change impacts							Started, on track
2	**Objective 2: Improve transnational collaboration on climate change adaptation and snow leopard conservation in Asia's high mountain landscapes**							
2.1	***Sub-objective 2.1: Building cooperation through the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas and its regional "Framework of Cooperation" for protection of Asia's high mountain landscapes and snow leopard conservation***							
2.1.7	Conduct Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas Inter-governmental Body Annual Meetings to support implementation of Framework of Cooperation							Intergovernmental discussions underway
2.2	***Sub-objective 2.2: Facilitate discussions on climate change and snow leopard conservation among the range countries***							
2.2.1	Conduct a range wide review of climate change vulnerability, and the impact of climate change on glacier melt rates, the availability of water resources, ecosystems, snow leopard habitat, and downstream communities. Also analyze the effects of regional black carbon emissions on glacial melt rates and review current policy initiatives to manage the impacts of glacial meltoff							Started, on track
2.2.4	Engage the Central Asian Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) to initiate a dialogue across central Asian countries on snow leopard conservation in the face of climate change, and which feeds into revised national snow leopard conservation action plans							On track
2.3	***Sub-objective 2.3: Update range-wide information on snow leopard trafficking and provide trafficking information to enforcement efforts at the national and regional network levels***							
2.3.1	Update information on commercial hunting and trade of snow leopards							On track
2.3.4	Partner and coordinate with INTERPOL through the USAID-funded Project Predator initiative to exchange relevant information							On track
2.4	***Sub-objective 2.4: Building momentum through a range-wide network for snow leopard conservation***							

SN	Activities	Unit	Target	FY13				Status
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
2.4.1	Conduct a range-wide snow leopard vulnerability and grassland degradation analysis using GIS and remote sensing, and use this analysis to identify core snow leopard habitat, potential snow leopard habitat, and the impacts of grassland degradation on water supply							On track
2.4.3	Convene a Technical Meeting of the Snow Leopard Network to discuss climate change, water security, and challenges facing snow leopard conservation	Event	1					Completed
2.4.4	Review national snow leopard conservation action plans and the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy from a climate change adaptation perspective and update them to be climate smart							On track
2.5	***Sub-objective 2.5: Launch the beginnings of the Alliance on Asia's High Mountain Landscapes***							
	Support preparations for the September Global Snow Leopard Forum to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan							